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presidents this ratio becomes approximately three and four, respectively. The large average of the French presidents is due to the names Poincaré, Picard, Borel, Hadamard and D'Ocagne.

It would have been of interest to include the Italians in these comparisons, as they have recently become one of the most active nations as regards mathematical work. It is, however, somewhat doubtful whether any one Italian society represents as completely the national mathematical activity during the period under consideration as those which were selected above. The *Circolo Matematico di Palermo* would, however, have been placed in the list if the writer had had a complete roll of its presidents for the given period.

A noticeable feature as regards American mathematical publications is that they are to a very large extent confined to journals devoted exclusively to mathematics. Our mathematicians do not assume as prominent a place in the proceedings of our academies as European mathematicians do in the corresponding proceedings. There is a danger of too much isolation on the part of our mathematicians. It is true that this has not been without its advantages. The journals confined to mathematics generally have editors who are better judges as regards the importance of a particular mathematical article than the editors of the more general publications, and hence it has been possible to raise the standard of our mathematical products more rapidly than would have been feasible otherwise.

The question, however, remains whether it would not be better to give more freedom to authors as regards publication and to let such critical reviews as those of the *Fortschritte der Mathematik* make it clear to the young writer that it does not pay to publish while one is in ignorance as regards novelty or importance. The author's position should be dignified by every possible latitude that is consistent with efficiency and his feeling of responsibility should extend far beyond editorial surveillance.

G. A. MILLER

HOME ECONOMICS

THE American Home Economics Association held a sectional conference on household and institution management June 28-July 2, 1910, at the Lake Placid Club, Lake Placid, N. Y., meeting there by invitation. The attendance was large and many valuable papers were presented which had to do with institution food problems and dietary standards and with the training of dietitians and other experts, as well as with institution architecture and institution accounting. The need for standardization in various departments of institution work was one of the subjects which came up for discussion.

As a whole the meeting was of great interest, as it showed the progress which has been made in applying to problems of home and institution management the scientific and technical data accumulated in the past few years, particularly in the group of sciences included under the subject of home economics.

The Graduate School of Home Economics is to be held at Ames, Iowa, July 6-20, 1910, at a period which falls within the time covered by the Graduate School of Agriculture at the same place. The two schools will hold a number of public meetings in common and arrangements will be made for students to take advantage of both courses of lectures. Many prominent educators will take part in the work.

The Graduate School of Home Economics is the outgrowth of the Summer School of Chemistry and Biology of Middletown, Conn., which was held in the month of July, 1902, through the influence of the late Professor W. O. Atwater. Subsequent meetings were held at the University of Illinois and at Cornell University.

The Graduate School of Home Economics is closely affiliated with the American Home Economics Association.

MATHEMATICS FOR ADMISSION TO COLLEGE

A CONFERENCE of representatives of the departments of mathematics of fifteen of the New England colleges and universities was